

Ac. No. 8

An

Washington D. C. Nov. 16th 1842



Sir

I transmit to you by to-day's bars a collection of Plants which I have made during the present year in the course of a Geographical Exploration to the Rocky Mountains. The region over which the collection was made, extends from the 39th to the 43^d degree of North Latitude & from about the 95th to the 112th degree West Longitude. The labels which are affixed to the plants will enable us to assign them their exact localities on a Topographical Map of the Country which I am now engaged in constructing, based upon numerous Astronomical positions, & the Barometrical Observations which I succeeded in to the top of the Mountains, will give us their limits. In their present state I am afraid you will find it almost impossible to fix localities from the labels & I regret that I have no means at present to render them more clear.

I think that you will already

have heard from Professor Zeager on this subject. It will be necessary for me to annex a catalogue of the plants to my report, which will be required for the use of the Congress early in the Session. Mr. Zeager informed me that it would suit your present engagements to give the necessary time to their examination & that he felt assured you would furnish me with a Catalogue in a few weeks. Should these plants possess any interest for you, I trust that they will be an apology for the liberty I have taken. It is probable that next year I shall be sent to continue these Explorations to the Pacific, & I shall be very much gratified if you will take some interest in my researches & enable me to give to any thing I may find interesting in your Science, the authority of your name.

The Box will be left to your order at Mr. Ernest Berthoud's, No 8 Pine St. When your leisure will permit, I shall be happy to hear from you & in the mean time, am

Very Respectfully
J. L. Fremont
Lieut. Top. Engineer



Washington City March 11th 1843.



My dear Sir;

Your favor of the 27th with the enclosure came safely to hand. I think that it would be unjust to you were I to write a preface to the catalogue of plants and would be assuming for myself a knowledge that I do not possess. I claim no other credit than what may be due to having collected them under circumstances of considerable hardship and privation. From the mouth of the Kansas river to the Red buttes, I had with me a number of carts which afforded means to transport the plants conveniently, but from that place our examination of the country was made on horseback. To accomplish the exploration on which I had been sent required very rapid movements and it was impossible for me to give to the plants the time necessary to arrange them properly. We were in a savage and inhospitable country, sometimes annoyed by the Indians and frequently in great distress from want of provisions, and when you join to these things the various duties which were constantly claiming my attention, you will readily make an allowance for the bad condition of the collection I sent you. It was made under very unfavorable circumstances, and in the intervals of very pressing duties.

Casting your eye on the small sketch I sent you, you will see that our line of road is generally along the bottoms of the Kansas tributaries and sometimes over the upper prairies. The soil of the river bottoms is always rich, and generally well timbered, though the whole region is what is called a prairie country...

The upper prairies are an immense deposit of sand and gravel, covered with a good and very generally a rich soil. Along the road on reaching the little stream called Sandy creek, the soil ~~became~~ became more sandy. The geological formation of this position is lime — and sand — stone. The Anemone was the characteristic plant, in many places being as abundant as the grass. From its mouth to the junction of its main forks the valley of the Platte generally about four miles broad is rich and well timbered, covered with luxuriant grasses. The large purple Astor? ^{was} ~~where~~ here the characteristic, flourishing in great magnificence. From the junction to Laramie's fork the country may be called a sandy one; the valley of the stream is without timber, but still the grasses are fine and plants abundant. On our return in September the whole valley looked like a garden. It was yellow with fields of sunflower which was the characteristic.

Between these two main forks of the Platte, and from the junction to Laramie's fork the formation consists of a calcareous marl, a soft earthy limestone, and a granitic sandstone. In the region traversed from Laramie's fork to the mouth of the Sweet Water river the soil is generally sandy, the formation consisting of a variety of sandstones — yellow and grey sandstones with compact gypsum or alabaster a red argillaceous sandstone with compact gypsum or alabaster and fine conglomerates. The Sweet Water valley is a sandy plain about 120 miles long, and generally about 5 miles broad, bounded by ranges of granitic mountains between which,

The valley formation consists near the Devil's gate of a grayish micaceous sandstone and fine grained conglomerate with a fine grained white sandstone. Proceeding twenty or thirty miles up the valley we find a white sandstone alternating with white clay and white clayey sandstone. At our encampment of August 5th - 6th we found a fine white clayey sandstone - a coarse sandstone or puddingstone and white calcareous sandstone. A few miles to the west of that position we reached a point where the sandstone reposed immediately upon the granite, which thenceforward along our line of route alternated with a compact clay slate.

We crossed the dividing ridge on the 8th of August & found the soil of the plains at the foot of the mountains on the western side to be sandy, being the decomposition of the neighbouring granite mountains. From Laramie's fork to this point the *Artemisia* was the characteristic plant, occupying the place of the grasses, and filling the air with its odour of camphor and spirits of turpentine. On the morning of the 10th we entered the defile of the Wind river mountains.

I hope that what I have hastily said above will enable you to write a short preface to the catalogue and I would be exceedingly indebted to you if you could send it with the 3^d part of the catalogue in order that I may introduce it into the report. The work is now in the hands of the printer but I will delay its publication some days until I hear from you. Should you find it proper to refer in your preface to heights above the sea I will fill up any blanks you may leave. In a few days I will reply to some other points in your letter and in the mean time beg you to let me hear from you as soon as will suit your convenience, as I am exceedingly pressed & should be very sorry to publish the catalogue

incomplete.

Very truly yours

J. C. Fremont.



I had just written the above when I received your note with the 2^d part of the catalogue. I am sure I need not tell you how much gratified I am that it has arrived in time for publication. I will put it to-day in the hands of the printer and the proofs shall be forwarded to you at Princeton as soon as they are struck. This letter is already very long & I will not add to it by expressing my thanks of which you are I know assured.

Believe me Yours truly

J. C. Fremont.



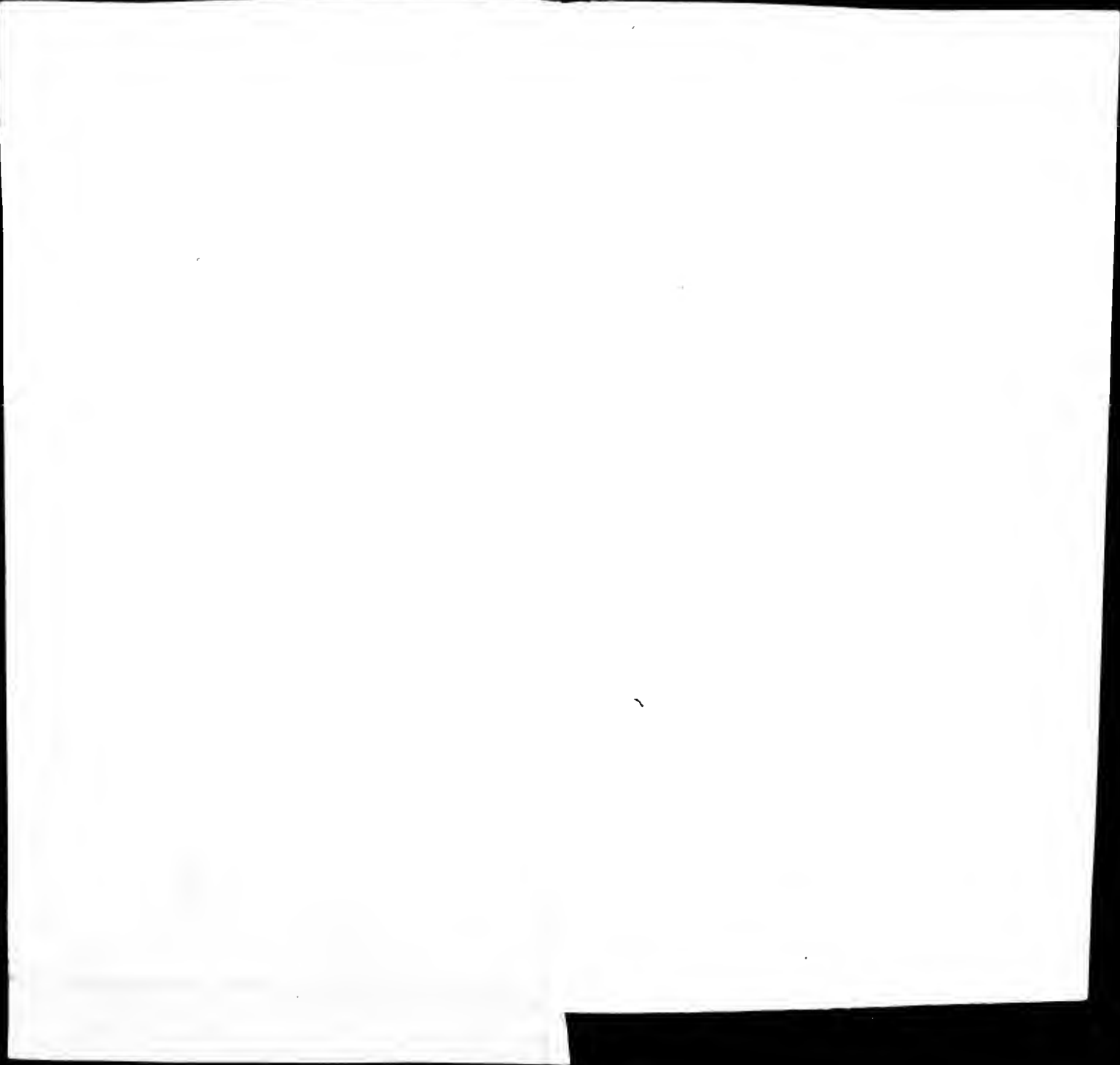


Fr. & S. K. 1892

Lithospermum *Cardinalis*
Bartram's Garden
Aug 27. 1892



Fremontia *torreyana*



Washington Sept 15th 1844.



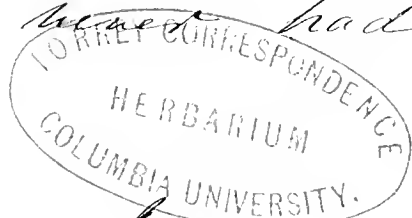
My dear Sir;

Your letter arrived yesterday evening and I read it with almost as much pain as gratification. I felt much gratified with the very flattering manner in which you speak of my Report, and at the same time felt regret and mortification at my inability to do any thing just now in furtherance of the plan we had proposed to ourselves when I set out upon the recent campaign.

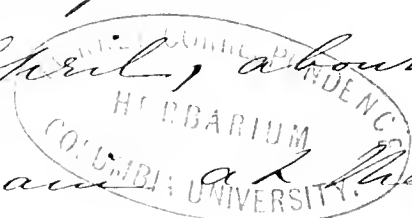
A fatality seemed to attend our plants in this expedition. The collection between Fort Hall (on Lewis' or Snake river) and the Bay of San Francisco, in Upper California was entirely lost by a fall of the mule on which it was packed, from a precipice into a torrent. The animal was killed and the bales could not be recovered. From California to the forks of the Kansas river, I had made a collection which would have been full of interest to you. I have never seen anything comparable to the profusion and variety of plants in the country thro' which I passed. I am satisfied that very many of the plants & shrubs, as well as several trees were entirely new, & I had with great labor ascertained from the Indians

the medicinal qualities of many, and had obtained all those which they used in any way for food. With these latter I was also acquainted from having used them myself, and the use of the former I had witnessed in several important cases. I had carefully studied the vegetation through every mile of the region travelled and made full notes. In addition to our complete publication separate from the body of the Report, I had intended that we should give interest & value to the narrative by inserting in it, & for each day along the line of travel, the characteristic shrubs & plants of the region, which as the country was a waste, desert and mountainous, & generally devoid of timber, between the Californian & the Rocky mts. formed a peculiar & highly interesting growth. You will form some idea to yourself of the floral richness of the country from the fact that at a distance of twenty five miles I mistook the fields of red & orange flowers along the slopes at the foot of mountains for strata of parti coloured rocks. Though in the course of our journey the Bales of plants had been twice wet, yet they were in very beautiful order when we encamped on the upper waters of the

Kansas on the 13th of July,³ in the course of which night
it began to rain violently & towards morning the
river which was 100 yards wide suddenly broke over
its banks, becoming in less than 5 minutes more than
half a mile in breadth. Everything we had was
thoroughly soaked. We were obliged to move
camp to the bluffs in a heavy rain which
continued for several days and our fine collection
was entirely ruined. I have ~~never~~ had a
severer trial of my fortitude. Brought
them along and such as they are I send them to you.
They are broken up & maddly and decayed, and to
day tried to change some of them, but found
it better to let them alone. Perhaps your
familiarity with plants may enable you to make
something out of them. You will find them labelled
with numbers which correspond to the numbers of notes
in my books, which I will copy & send to you in
case you can do any thing with them. I shall
probably be in New York soon & could indicate the
localities of such as are not labelled. From
the wreck of our fossil collection I saved some in
which the vegetable impressions seem to me very
plain & beautiful. Could you aid me in decy-
-phering them? If so I will send or bring them.



From the moment the plants were lost, I had
 formed a determination which has been strength-
 ened by your letter - to return immediately to the
 interesting regions I have described to you, with the
 main and leading object of making anew such
 a collection as will enable us to give a perfect
 description of the vegetable character of the whole
 region. Its interest will of course be
 increased by large additions in Geography & Geology
 as we shall run an entirely new line in going
 out. I beg that you will keep this plan in
 view in your examination of the plants now sent
 you, as we may possibly be able to connect them
 with those I shall gather next year. Silence is
 one of the elements of success, and therefore I
 know that you will excuse me for telling you
 that I mention this plan only to yourself & shall
 speak of it to no one else. I have 600/70
 fine mules & horses at pasture on the frontier
 and shall immediately commence my preparations
 so as to leave the frontier early in April, about
 the 1st and shall certainly be again at the
 frontier early in October of next year (1845.)



In order to have efficient assistance in preparing & changing the plants &c. - I take with me a young German gardener who has had the botanical education which they usually receive. We shall also have colored figures of the plants. I trust that you will enter warmly into my enterprise & give me in the course of the winter whatever suggestions may offer themselves to you, tending to ensure our success.

I must not omit to inform you that our geographical labors were attended with a beautiful success. We have passed through a country new & full of interest every mile of which we have sketched in our field books, supported by several volumes of astronomical positions. All my notes of every kind ~~have been~~ preserved and enough remains from the Geological collection to determine much positively & next year will add a great deal. I am very desirous to study these remains with some good Geologist, conversant in fossils & it would be very important to me to endeavor to add something to the little knowledge I have of practical botany.

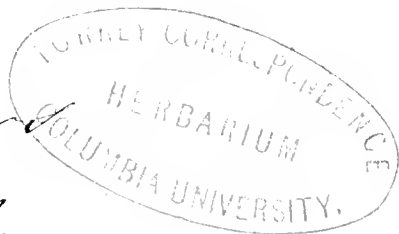
6.

Altogether I shall have a busy winter, in writing a Report of the last campaign which must be presented to Congress before March, & in preparing for another. The plants will leave this place Tuesday morning & I will drop you a note where to find them. You will find a small parcel containing some of the fruit of an acacia(?) of which I have been able to find no description. If not destroyed you will also find ^{find} the leaves & fruit among the plants in the paper. Among the plants you will find the wood of the artemisia (a tridentata) & a salt shrub which I can indicate to you among the plants by the number. The mat I thought would interest you, as it is made from the Ammodendron a California plant which is in the collection & will be recognized when we compare numbers. I conclude now this disjointed letter & hope to hear from you soon in reply.

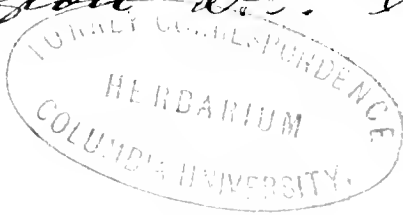
I am my dear Sir

Very truly yours
J. C. Fremont.

Dr. Torrey.



Washington D.C. Dec 6th 1844



My dear Sir,

An absence from the city will account to you for this late reply to your last two letters, which I found here on my return. I am very glad to hear that you will be able to rescue many of the plants & still better satisfied to know that the botanical riches of the country are as great as I had thought. All your suggestions which regard the collection of *Cryptogamia* shall be particularly attended to & good and coloured drawings made of plants & trees, and since reading your letter I am very sanguine that we shall be able to produce a very interesting and valuable work. I have kept myself well informed of the movements of Ledebur & Geyer and we much do our best endeavors to anticipate the English botanists. Geyer wrote to me from Fort Hall when I was on the Great Salt Lake.

He had made a large collection which he proposed to complete & carry to Europe the present year, embarking at the mouth of the Columbia. He is now in the north or main branch of the Columbia. I met Saders at the Cascades of the Columbia near Vancouver to which he was going. He had made no collection whatever, but proposed doing much work this year. The proposals for the sale of collections which you saw in the European papers were from Dr. Engelmann of St. Louis. He had made arrangements with Sader & Geyer to dispose of their collections which should be delivered to him on the condition that Dr. Engelmann should get them out & they enjoy the pecuniary advantage from the sale of the collections which he engaged to dispose of, while all the reputation arising from their description &c. should belong to him.

So far Soder has not succeeded and Geyer
proved entirely faithless to his confidence, carry-
ing off the plants & otherwise behaving very
badly. This brings me directly to the
gentleman you recommend. Will he
work for us in good faith for such
salary as I can give him, and which
profit as may arise from the sale of
the plants? If you are certain that
he may be relied on for these things
I will certainly try to do what you desire
& take him with me. No! I have
proceeded somewhat far in an arrangement
with another person who would be satisfied
to aid me in gathering the plants for a
stipulated salary. Still I should like
better the gentleman you mention & should take
pleasure in aiding him in any way possible
as you describe him to be poor & dispirited.
I would be glad if you would assist me to
determine some fossil remains, belonging to a
bituminous coal formation, which I brought among
my specimens. They are very interesting & im-
portant to me in fixing the geology. If you
think you can find leisure - I will send them to you.

I thank you for your offer to bear a portion
of the expense of transporting the plants; but
it was small & I beg you will not think
of it. Yours very truly
H. Kimball.



Upon Official Business
Bureau Copy Engrs

L. J. Abbot
Coz Corps Dr.

Dr. John Torrey

Princeton

Nov 1891



Washington D.C. October 28th 1844.



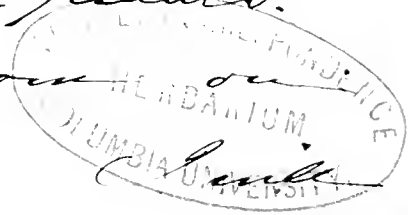
My Dear Sir,

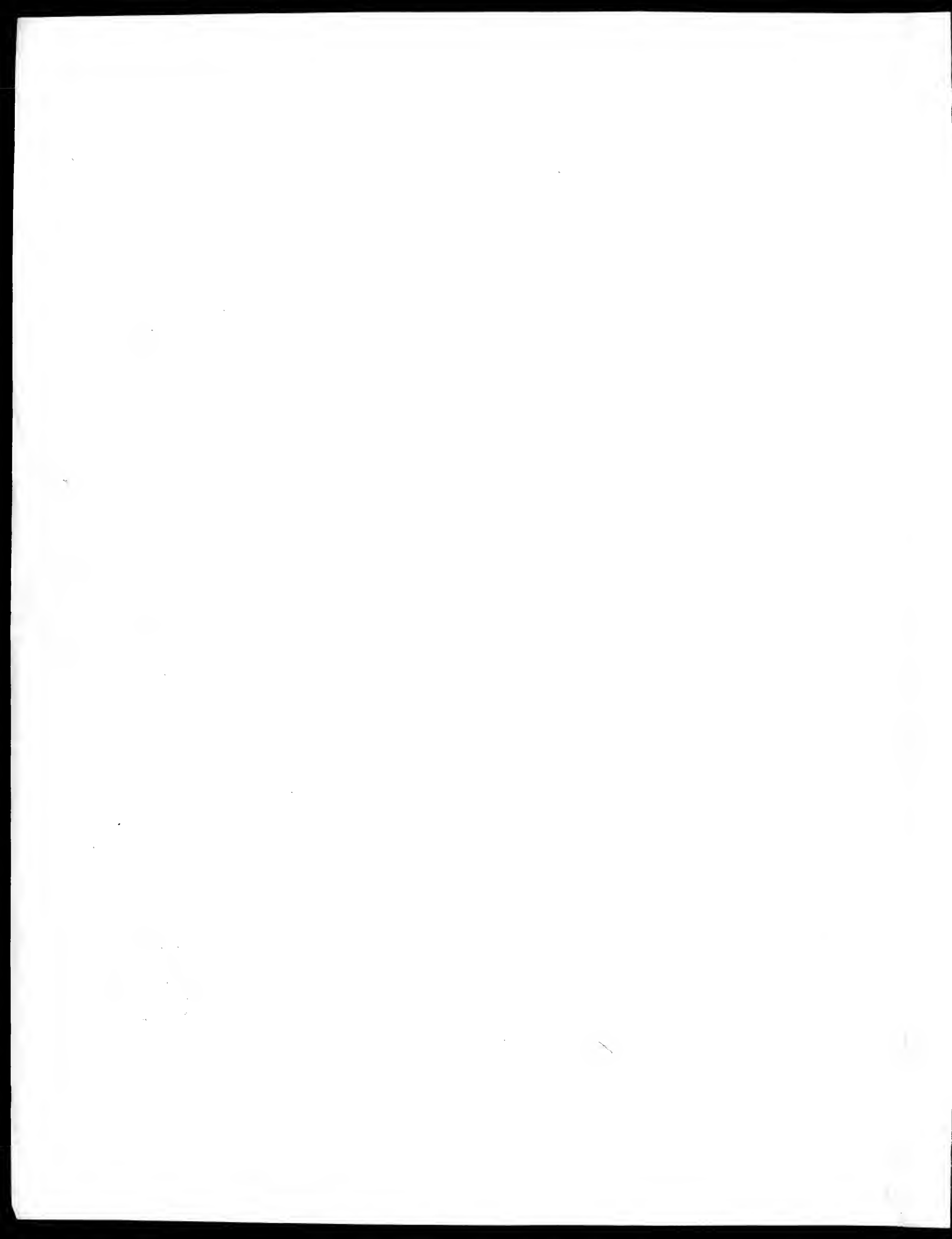
I write you a line to say that constant occupation has prevented my replying to yours as I have been endeavoring day after day to find the time to make you out a copy of notes for the plants.

I think I shall be able to carry out many of the suggestions contained in your letter. Col. Abert shewed me a letter from Dr. Gray in favor of Dr. Wymann. In case any arrangement should be made with Dr. Wymann, it will be necessary that he receive his salary from the Department and report to it. I have not been

able to find a single copy of my Report but if I should succeed in obtaining any I will send them to you. I would be much obliged to you if you could give me the name of the enclosed little plants. It was the first flower I found in bloom descending from the California Mts. I will write again very soon.

Yours Truly
A. C. Reinouk.





Washington City Nov 21st 1844.

My dear Sir,

I send you herewith a list of localities for the plants of 1844. Those for '43 I will send you in a day or two as I did not wish to make one such large package. These are simply the descriptions annexed to the plant when first taken but the greater part of these plants are noticed repeatedly through all my journals, & their localities extended with additional information respecting them — but as I am much pressed for time & this list has already amounted to fifty pages I thought it better to wait — until you ascertained what plants could be recognized, when I will send you the additional information. In the other package the numbers go as high as 800 — making about 1500. Nearly all of the plants gathered on the Kansas were not numbered. I was somewhat discouraged by the accident to the others — You will recognize these by the large number without labels. If you could conveniently do so, it would give much additional interest to my Report, were you to furnish me with the botanical names of the grasses &

characteristic plants. For this bke of use it would be necessary for me to have it in a couple of months as my Report must be out then.

I do not know if this is exactly proper to ask this of you but I have such so many losses in my collections on which I relied very much, that I must do all that I can to give some value to my Report. Please let me

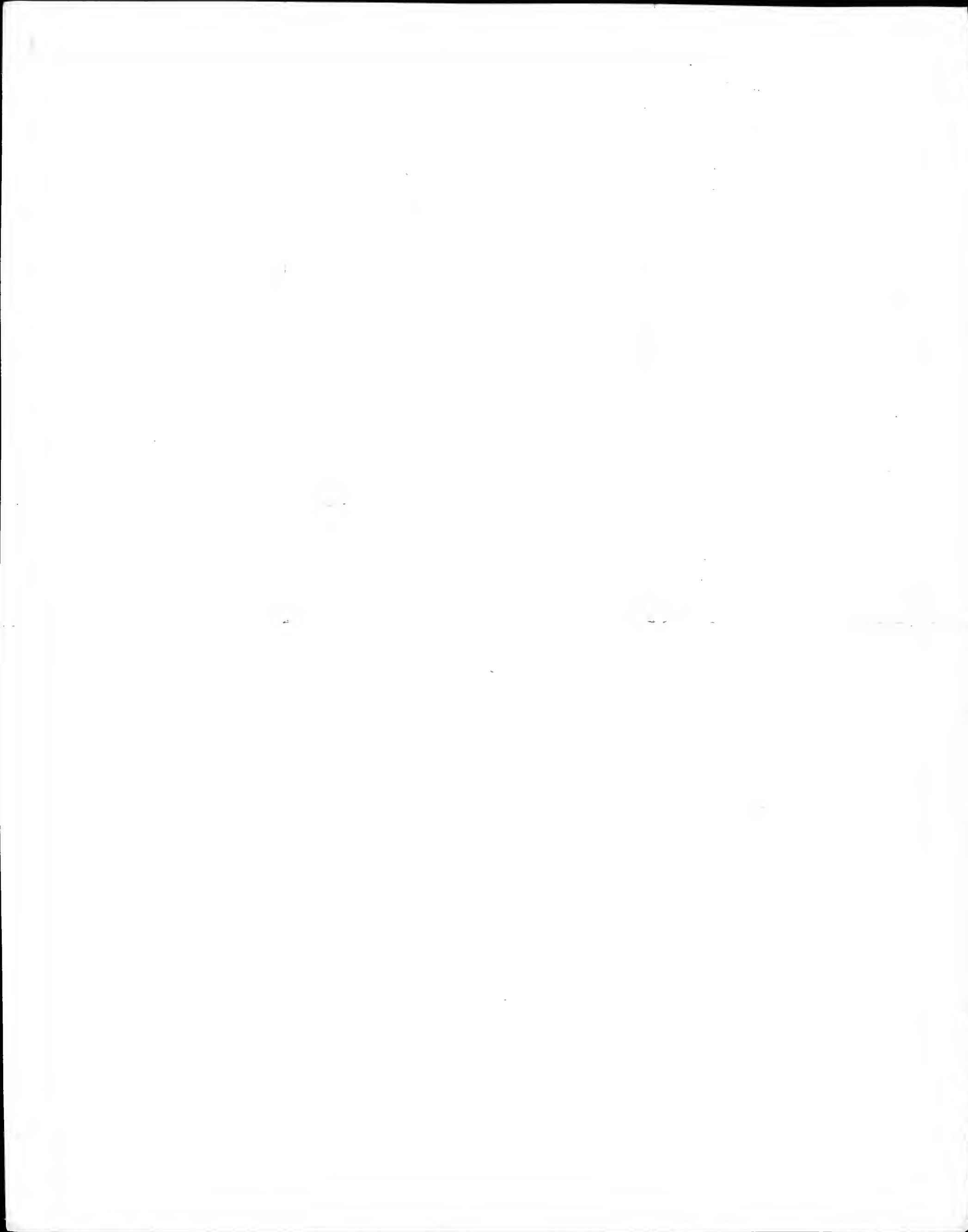
hear on this subject as soon as you have leisure. Will you please know how I shall send our geological specimens to Prof. Hall? or may I send the box to you if he is in New York? There does not now remain much time & I am anxious they should be in his hands as soon as possible. The arrangements for our expedition go on handsomely, I am having excellent instruments made & myself engaged in hard study, among other things descriptive Botany & I am in every possible way forwarding my arrangements, so as to be able to take the field early in the spring. You may depend that I will bring you something handsome before the winter of '45.

we must have the geological formation geographical
position & elevation above the sea for all our plants.
This with the colored figures of the new specimens will
make a solid work. I also send you through the
mail, two copies of my ~~Report~~ of '60 which I am glad
to have been able to procure for you.

Very truly

J. C. Fremont.





Washington City December 3^d 1844.

My dear Sir,

Having received no reply to my last letters to you, I conclude you must be in Princeton & have not received them as they were directed to New York. The last package contained the catalogue of all the plants except a few hundred for the latter part of 1843 - which will be forwarded as soon as you acknowledge the receipt of the others. Will you have the goodness to answer by the return mail that I may know the fate of the Catalogue.

Very truly yours

J. C. Rémont.



AB

A

Washington City Dec. 30th 1844.



My Dear Sir,

I trust that because I delayed answering you for some little time that you will not think that I am not very anxious on the subject of the rocks & plants - on the contrary I am becoming more so as the time at my disposal becomes shorter. I have for some time past been too unwell to devote myself to labor & I have also very many calls upon my attention.

I received your last letter with a great deal of satisfaction as it contained very many agreeable things. The determination of the fossil specimens which I send you, and the botanical information which I hope you will be able to furnish me, will enable me at once to finish my report. These subjects you know are spread over the whole of the work and as their introduction would be to re-write the Report, I have deferred it until I shall receive it.

Could not your friend Dr. Kuntze aid in determining the grasses &c? I would be glad to allow him a proper compensation for it & in that way you might be saved a great deal of trouble & I could get the information in

time besides giving him employment which would bring him some little money.

I shall send boxes containing specimens for Dr. Hall by the Transportation line agreeably to the address you gave me & will let you know what time they will be in New York. He will think them a poor collection but I beg you to tell him that they are merely the wreck of what I had obtained.

I send them all to him & he will find among them little pieces & scraps of rock which have no apparent interest but I consider every geological fact, which can be located, of importance in that extensive region & therefore I have held on to every thing. I was decisive that all of the little I would have to say on this subject should be based upon his authority but if his time should not permit him to examine all of them the box marked No. 1 will contain the fossils & the others might be returned.

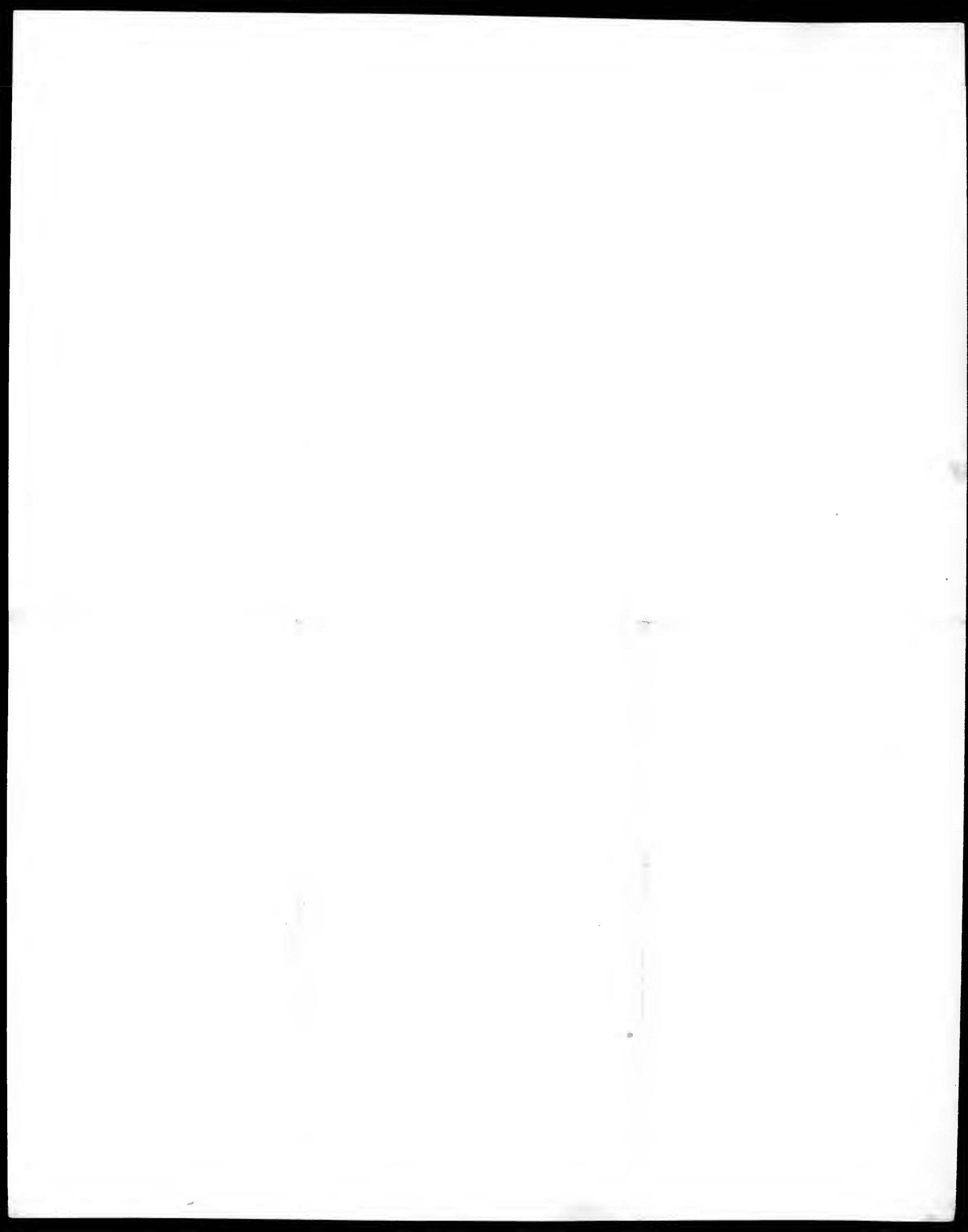
The numbers attached to each specimen correspond with others in my books & if it would be of any advantage to Dr. Hall I could send him a list of their localities.

May I beg you to mention to Dr. Hall the urgent want I have for the results & I much beg you not to be offended at my having so repeatedly pressed you for the botanical knowledge as I am really at a stand on account of it. I am anxious to get through with the business of the last campaign in order that I may prepare earnestly for the next.

I enclose you some of the seeds of a species of
Coniferae (no. 367 of 1844) & found more numerous
in 1843. These seeds contribute largely to the
support of Indians & I am anxious to know what
the tree is. I shall be glad to hear
from you soon.

Yours very truly
J. C. Fremont





Washington City Jan 12th 1845



My Dear Sir,

On Thursday last I sent by the transportation line a box of fossils for Dr. Hall. The agent informed me that it would be in New York to-morrow but I could not learn whether it would be sent to Mr. Endicott or whether it was necessary to send for it. I enclose a brief note relative to them which can be extended if it should be of use. The names which I have affixed to some of the vegetable fossils, depend only on my own knowledge as there is no one here to whom I could refer for the least information on the subject, therefore Dr. Hall will know what weight to give them. If it would not be trouble some to him I would be glad to have them again as this year I shall visit the same localities in order to examine as closely as I am able the interesting geology of that country. He had better break up one of the large specimens as he will find several different varieties of plants. Some of these appear to be entirely new. I would have been glad to send him all the different specimens of rocks in order that the little notice that I could make of the geology on this occasion might depend on his authority - and I am afraid to ask too much of him.

It will be quite a pleasure to hear from you whenever you find time. I hope that in the midst of your labors your health has been good which has not been altogether the case with me. In fact my ill health has taken away much of the

energy so necessary for my work, which will account
to you for my not having sent the specimens before.

In the box I sent you a cone belonging to the tree
from which I sent you the nuts or seeds. You
will find one of these contained under each of the
scales. I also put in the box a mutilated cone
from what I supposed to be *Pinus Lambertiana* —
leaves about 2 inches long — in finer. Cones ~~four~~ ^{four} inches
long.

Yours very truly
J. C. Fremont.



Washington City - February 7th 1846.



My Dear Sir,

This will be handed to you by
Dr. James McDowell son of the Govr. of
Virginia who is to accompany me as
Surgeon in my next expedition. My Report
is about to be ordered in the Senate
and as I am obliged to publish it before I go
I know you will not feel yourself urged if
I beg you to assist me by giving what
information you can relative to the botany
of the country in order that I may give
to it as much interest & value as
possible & in some degree proportioned
to the interest which has been raised
in regard to it. Mr. McDowell
happening to have a few days of leisure &
prevailed on him to go to New York
for the purpose of seeing as he could
better explain to you than I now
much pressed I am for this time &

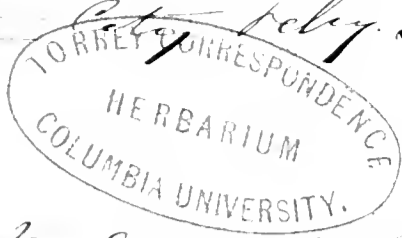
how much indebted I would be for
your assistance.

There will be about 10,000
copies of the Report ordered & as it will
be widely disseminated I am
exceedingly anxious it will go out with
every advantage our limited time can
give us.

Very truly yours
J. C. Merriam.



Washington City Feb. 26th 1845.



My dear Sir;

Will you have the kindness to forward to Prof. Hall, a box which I have sent to Mr. Endicott. Have the pleasure to hear from Dr. Hall, who is getting on well with the fossils.

Enclose a form of the receipt, used by the Department & if will please have it receipted for amount paid in the transportation of the boxes. I will send on the draft immediately.

I send you a fragment of the Californian poppy, as I suppose it to be, *Eschscholzia* ^{*Groenlandica*} ~~*californica*~~.

Suppose the specimens were so much injured that even this may help.

I will send you ^{in this enclosure} an envelope, a few plants which I have found among my books, which were forgotten, (*Campanula media*)? Rocky Mts. abundant. (*Viola canina*?) Rocky Mts. A Strawberry Rocky Mts.

In addition to these above will be a fragment (all that is left,) of a very interesting leguminous plant with a deep yellow flower. It is highly characteristic in certain portions of the Rocky Mts. region.

The plants will come in a public document.

Have also some additional seed vessels of the new acacia if you desire them. You will have to search carefully in order to find the

last
Aug

from Mr. Lutz

J. C. Fémont

367. ¹⁸⁴⁴ " A remarkable species. without cones.
Probably a Pinus though the leaves
are almost all solitary! - only two
or three being found double in the
same sheath.

Washington City. ^{July} 26. 1845.

My Dear Sir,

In looking over the list of
plants the words which I have under-
-red in the above struck me for the
first time to-day, & I have to tell you

That in the first box of fossils
which I sent some weeks ago to
Dr. Hall, was a cone for you in
good preservation belonging to that tree.

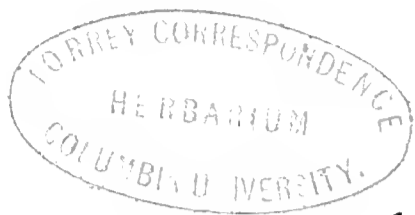
As there were many specimens of the
same tree the cone was probably
referred to another number. I also sent
you some fruit or seeds of the same
in a letter. I am very much
interested in this particular tree.

Among the plants was a small bundle
or sheaf of sweet scented grass from
Grand river of the Rocky Mts. It was
not labelled. Can you tell me its name?
Can you tell me the botanic name
of what is commonly called in the West Buffalo grass?

A very short succulent curled grass having
a small reddish blossom.

Yours, very truly
J. C. Fernow





My Dear Sir,

I have this moment, near midnight, received your packet & thanking you very warmly in passport for it. I hasten to tell you that looking first at the end of your letter I was surprised to find the document on Coals which reached you contained no plants. They were very carefully put between uncut leaves, & most of them were in brown paper envelopes. Did you wish open the document yourself or could it have been opened previously? They were enclosed in the Report on Coals as Col. Benton thought it would be agreeable to you to look over it. I will write to you again soon & in the meantime remain very truly yours,

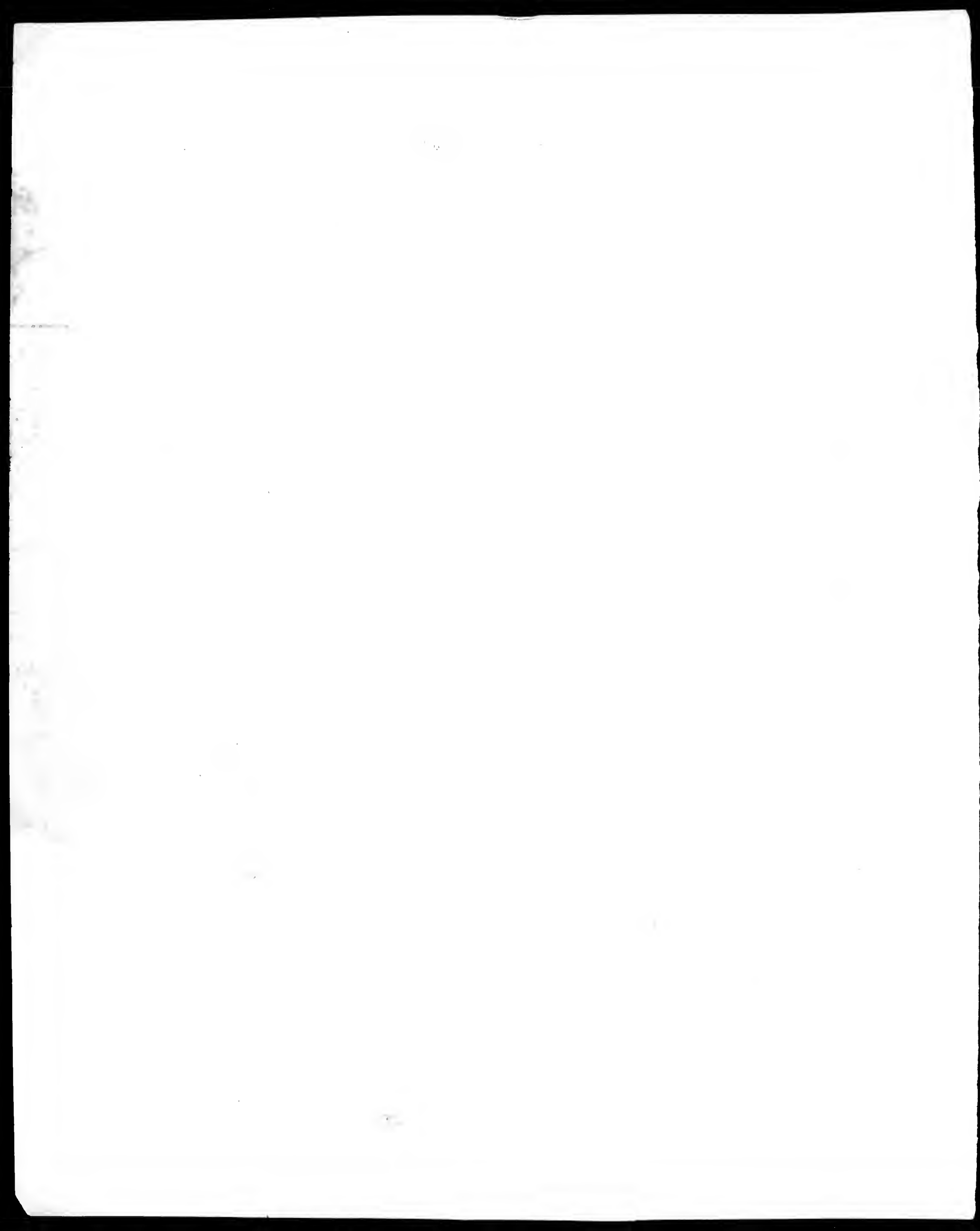
J. C. Fremont.

Thursday night March 12th



[1245

Mar 13 1935]



Washington City. March 23^d 1845.



My Dear Sir,

I am delighted to know that you are at Princeton. The letters you have sent since you arrived there have been of great value to me - many of the plants you have determined were characteristic & very many are interesting. *Purshia trid.* for instance, extends over a great portion of the country west of the Rocky Mts. *Fernontia vermicularis* with other saline shrubs is ~~at~~ very abundant & in many places highly characteristic - the leaves of this plant have a very salty taste which perhaps you do not know. I think that the shrubs of that country, are very great in variety, & form probably the most interesting portion of the plants. Will you not give to the *Pinus Piñon* the name of your botanical friends - Will you not designate the acacia by some name. No. 509 1844, is a plant, the root of which is extensively used by the Indians as an article of

food, under the names of Racine à Tabac
and Black root. It has broad oblong
lanceolate leaves & a bulbous root many
specimens unnumbered perhaps you
might determine it.

No part of my report will go to the press
before the end of this month & then
I will print very slowly in order that
we may avail ourselves as much as
possible of your determinations.

No. 149-1844. This was from a large oak
three feet in diameter - specimen taken in the
first days of April - bears a slender
acorn three quarters of an inch to an inch &
a half long - which has a pleasant flavor.
The Indians gather it in enormous quantities
I enclose you a rough sketch from
our botanical artist that you may
judge how we shall do - I will
write you a desultory line
frequently & am with much respect
truly yours
J. C. G. J. J. J.

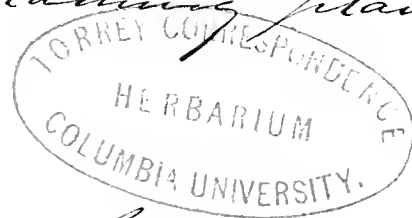


My dear Sir,

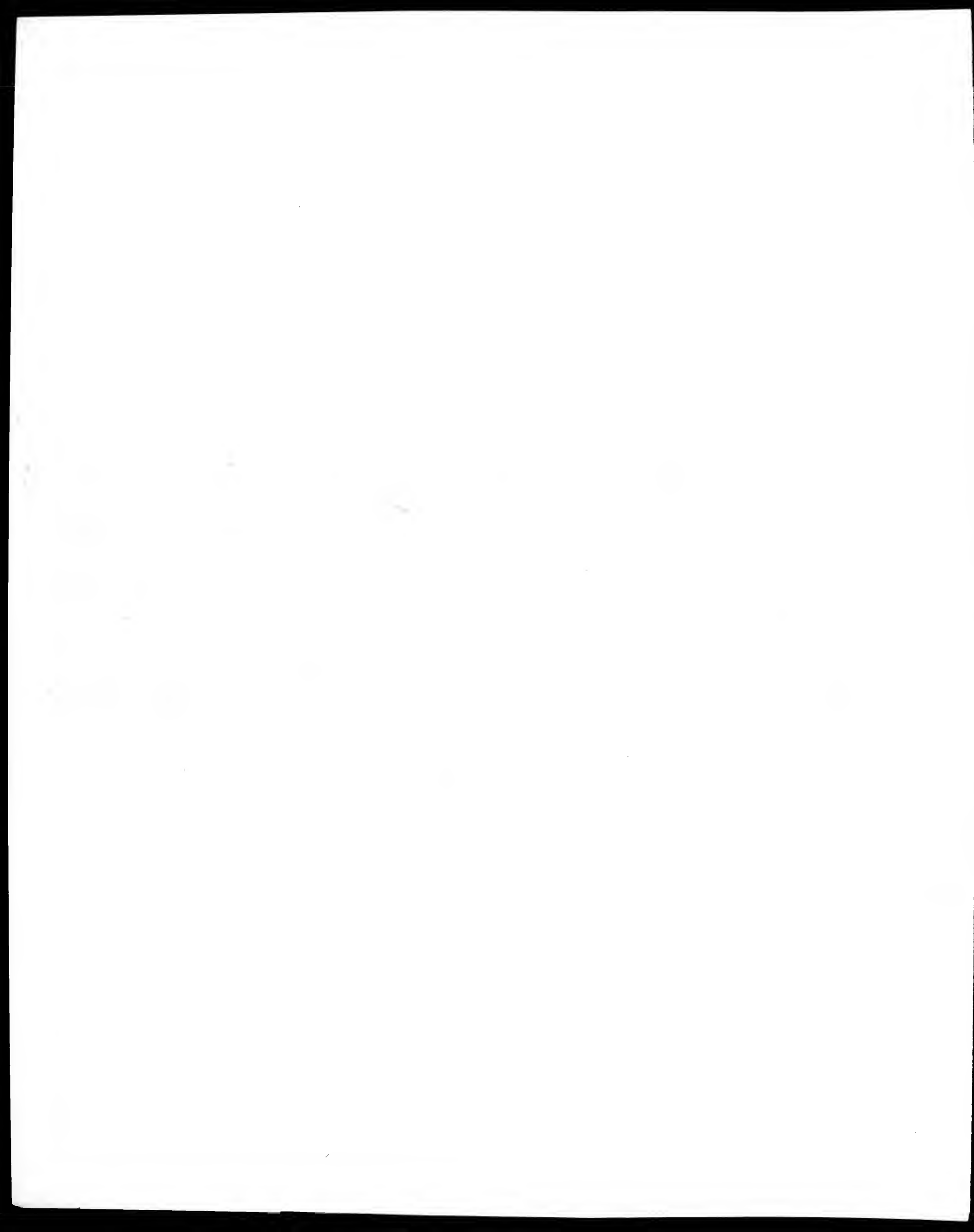
Yours of the 25th from New York, I have this moment received. & immediately reply in order that you may lose no time in having the *Pennsylvanica* engraved - which I beg you will have commenced at once. Will you accompany it with a description? If so I will send you a list of the localities to which it belongs - general & particular.

I will write again by to night's mail & send by the same a Pub. Soc. containing plants.

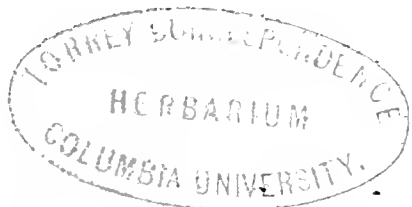
Very truly yours
S. C. Penick.



Thursday March 27th 1845
Washington City.



Washington City
March 30th 1865.



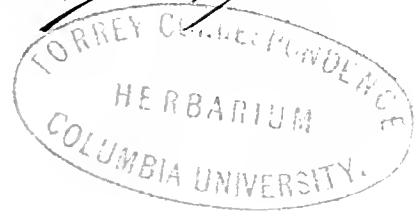
My dear Dr,

I was not able to distinguish
any difference between the blue flay of
the Rocky Mt. Country, & the common
blue flay of cultivation. Will you
tell me if I shall do wrong in calling
it Linum usitatissimum? If you have
it at hand please send one when
next you write, a little piece of
Synsira graveolens.

With respect I am
Yours Truly yours
J. C. Fremont



Washington City April 4th 1845.



My dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to acknowledge your last letter of the 31st containing your final determinations. I trust with you that we shall not find it necessary to make any sacrifices at the end of the next Campaign - at the same time it is really wonderful to me that you have been able to make out so many of this collection, but the beautiful condition in which you will see those of the next, will be some amends for your labor. As we do not publish any appendix, I suppose you will think it not advisable to annex Dr. Gray's pamphlet to the Report. I hope that you will succeed with the plate of the Primordia you know that can always be put in at the last hour. We shall require certainly ten thousand, & probably twenty thousand impressions. I enclose a little note, on which I beg you to put the answers to the questions, if there are any, and enclose it back to me - They

refer to your last determinations. I made

some inaccountable mistake in not sending
you the missing numbers which shall
be forwarded - All my manuscripts are
complete.

Very truly yours,
J. C. Fremont



Washington City April 7th 1845.



My dear Sir,

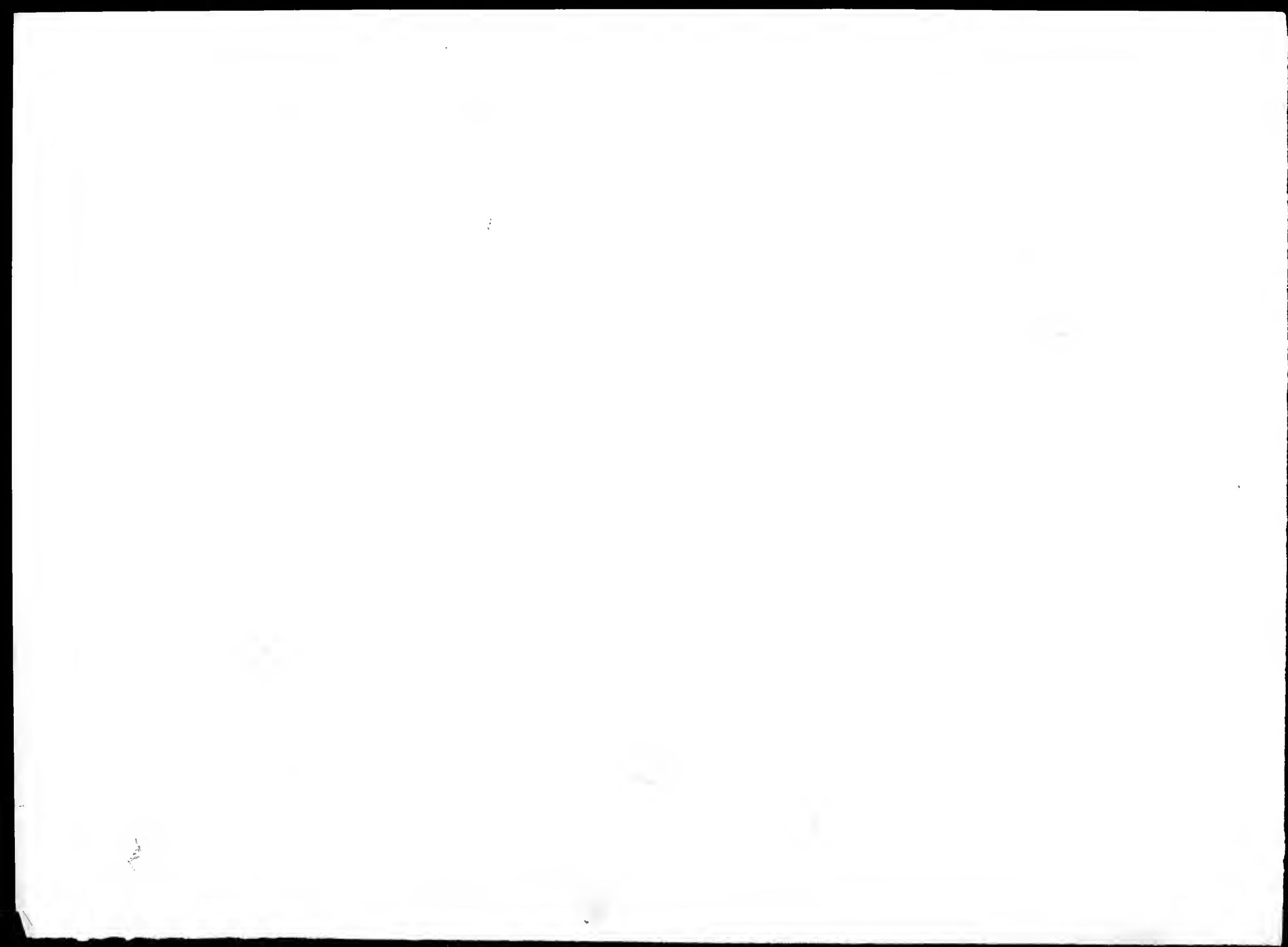
I received safely your letter and the package containing plants, which I delayed acknowledging as I had just written you a line.

The chenopodiaceous shrubs as you have probably judged form a striking feature in the vegetation of the country, and I will take some pains in having them well figured.

There will be a greater number of the Fremontia plate required, than I supposed - I find we shall want 11,335. I am glad that you found a good piece of the plant. Col. Benton says it will give him pleasure to send you any documents that may be of interest.

I am, my dear Sir,
Very truly yours
J. C. Fremont.

W. C. C. C.
Rep.



Washington City April 8th 1865.



My dear Sir,

I received your letter of the 4th last night.

As we cannot make full use of our botany for the present report I only refer slightly to the plants in the course of the narrative, rarely mentioning any other than are very characteristic. but I suppose it will be well to secure such as the Pinon pine, and the Spirolobium and I was desirous to have your advice as to the manner in which I should mention them. That is to say, I should like to know the briefest form, which would show that you had examined them, & that they rest upon your authority. Will the manner in which you give "Spirolobium Torr. & Frem." be sufficient? In the preface I have stated that all the plants were in your hands and that whatever was said in regard to botany rested on your authority - but that there had not been sufficient time for you to prepare a full

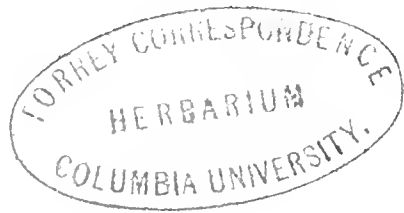
botanical account, which would be deferred until the next report.

I think that S. odorata is the best name for the tree, as its fragrance is very delightful & remarkable.

I am making every effort to get out at the end of this month but am very much pressed by business. I find it difficult to restrain my impatience when I see every thing coming into bloom & remember how many beautiful things for us beyond the Mississippi. In the mean time I am organizing my camp on the frontier and collecting my horses here. I go out this time well equipped. I have some beautiful instruments and my longitude will not have any longer to depend much on chronometers. I will either send you a proof or a copy of the map before I leave. I hope that I shall have an early reply to the question this & in the meantime remain
Respectfully & truly yours
J. C. Fremont



I think that I have seen varieties of the *Sperolobium*
in that country, but will defer being certain
until I get there again.



1000

July 15, 1815 - July 13, 1825

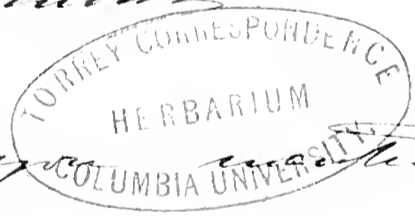


My dear Sir, your letters of the 10th & 13th, were received together last night. Far from wearying of your letters I never see the handwriting on the address without pleasure and your enthusiasm for botany hardly surpasses my own, although scarcely justified by my slight knowledge. As you know have the most leisure please write whenever you have any suggestion or information to communicate and I will answer as promptly as pressing business will now permit. I know answer Striatum. Unless Geyer be the German botanist I have no idea who it can be, but we will try in the coming expedition to go beyond him. I will send you the notes on the Fremontia tonight, and will take care about the extra copies, and those of the report. I like your idea of publishing from time to time when I am gone and if I can make a safe opportunity I will send you a collection from the foot of the mountains in the summer. We can arrange to have as many plates laid for

as you choose to prepare - and will engage a
friend to attend to it in my absence. I send
you the only copy of Nicotlet's report we have
by us - if you mean Eschschol's report for 1841
I can also send you a copy of that. In reply
to your note of April 11th I am greatly pleased
with your plan for a popular work & supplement
to Michaux. I am satisfied that there is a
large and extraordinary variety of trees - The
Government will pay for the plates.

In reply to April 13th I'll be glad to get your
descriptions. They will form what we really
want for the present work. A brief notice of
the value of the Botany and a few descriptions
(authorities) of plants that we ought not to lose

I am with great respect
Very cordially yours,
J. C. Preiner.



Please send me any of the plants you mentioned
The express will bring them to me very
carefully. The unnumbered specimens of
Tobacco root, or black root (Valeriana) were with among
the Kansas plants - They were gathered about the
26th May 1846, on the Utah lake, west of the Rocky

Washington City April 18th 1845.

My dear Sir,

You are perfectly right about the black root, it needed only the smell of the little piece you sent to recognise the plant. In regard to the plates Col. Benton desired me to tell you, that he has no doubt Congress will pay for every thing of that kind.

I have always something to ask you. Will you perhaps remember, my having sent you when you were at New York, two little plants, the first I saw in bloom in coming out of the snows of the Californian Mts. I cannot, after much searching lay my hand on your letter, giving them their names, and I am afraid it will come up, when it is too late, and perhaps you can still tell me what they were.

I have made up my mind to send you from the foot of the mountains, through Bent's Fur Company the plants I shall collect up to that point. I see that many of the trees, particularly some fine oaks, you think are new, and as we have passed over the country several times, we should not let any one anticipate us in publishing them. If you find leisure to send me any pieces of our plants, they will reach me safely through the express, and will be very useful guides to me.

Please let me hear soon in answer to my question:
and I will give you any specific information you
desire to have, in regard to any arrangement
you may like to make about the plates.

In that, we may do any thing we like.

Yours very truly
J. C. Fremont.



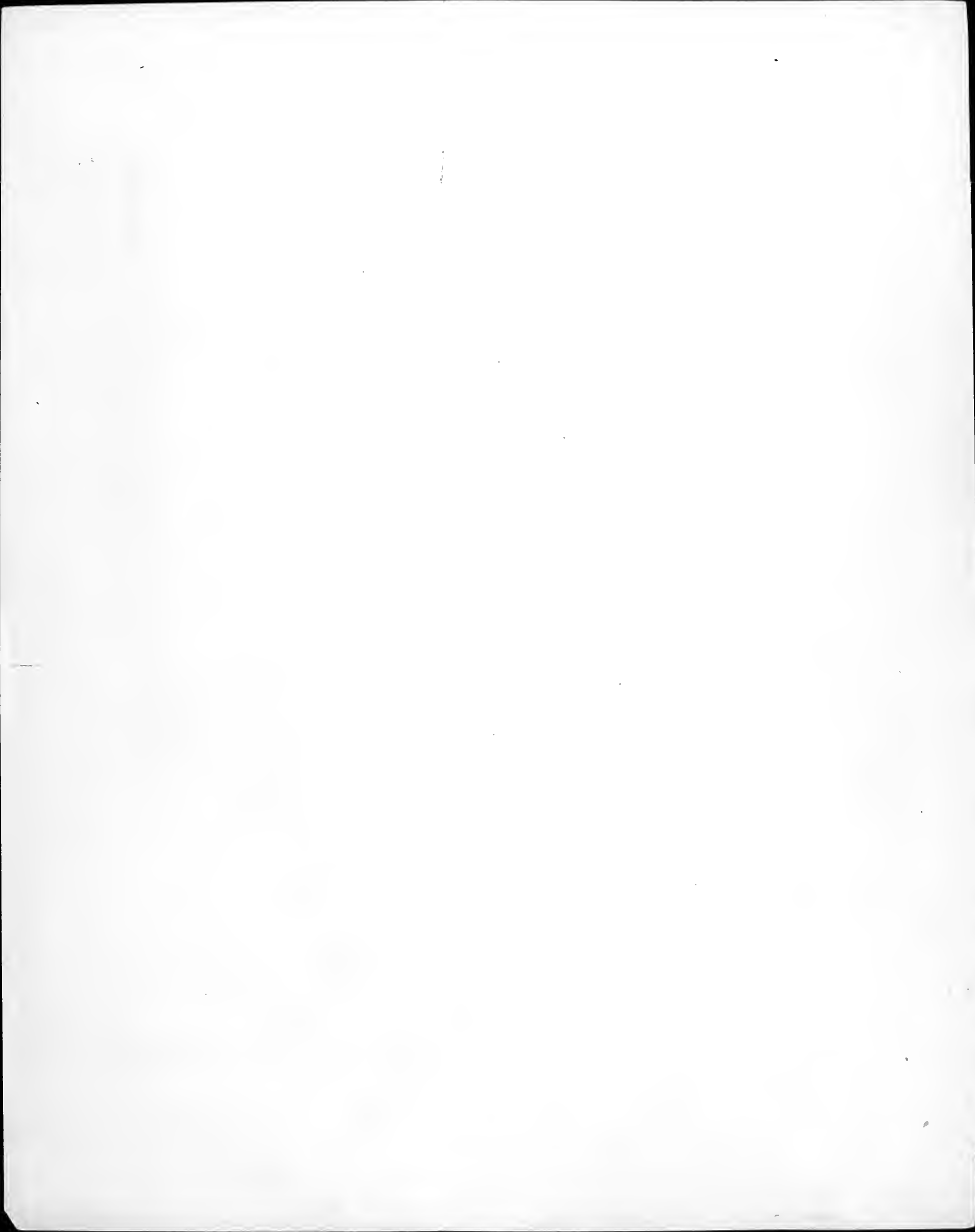


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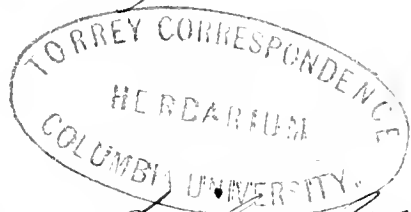


2500



Washington City Nov. 1st 1847.

My Dear Sir,



I have been daily promising myself, the pleasure of a long letter to you but accumulated business pressing upon deranged health, has daily diverted me from this and many other attentions to friends whom I have seemed to neglect. Whencever I think of California and plants you come in also, & this subject of frequent thought rising in my mind this morning I write a line before becoming involved in the business of a trial which will occupy all my time and not improve my health. I enclose a little flower, the name of which I should like to know, and which you will remember as being among our California plants in the previous collection. You know that this

pleasant work was interrupted in California, but notwithstanding, the collection was good, and agreeably to your suggestion sealed up in air-tight cases. I was obliged to leave them behind in California, but expect them by the first vessel which shall arrive. As soon as I receive them I will put them at your disposition.

I will confess to you that it was matter of great regret to me to loose the *F. permicularis*. Hope to hear

from you soon, and am

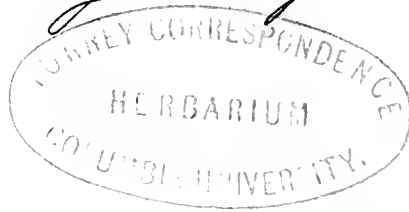
Very truly yours

H. B. Fremont,

Dr. John Torrey.



Washington City Feby. 24th 1868



My Dear Sir,

I had just sent you a little inquiry about some seeds I wished to take to California, when I received your kind letter of yesterday. When I resigned my commission of Lt. Col. of Cavalry, I gave up also my commission in the Topl. Engineers, which had in fact been vacated by my acceptance of the former. I have therefore entirely withdrawn from the public service, but I am deeply gratified with being able to ~~assure~~ ^{reassure} you that our work will still go on, and that I even hope to be able to give to it a greater extent and beauty than we had before anticipated. This, although ^{only} ~~the~~ hope at present, will, I have great reason to believe be verified, and in the mean time I am permitted to assure you, that there will be no interruption

in working up the materials that we have already collected. So soon as I obtain more certain knowledge, I will write to you again and in the mean time I would be glad to know at what time you propose visiting this city.

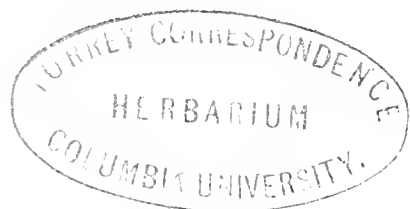
I thank you sincerely and earnestly for the expression of your sympathy. Throughout this business I have ~~tasked~~ ^{traced} my judgement to do what was right, and it will be a high gratification to know that my friends approve my conduct.

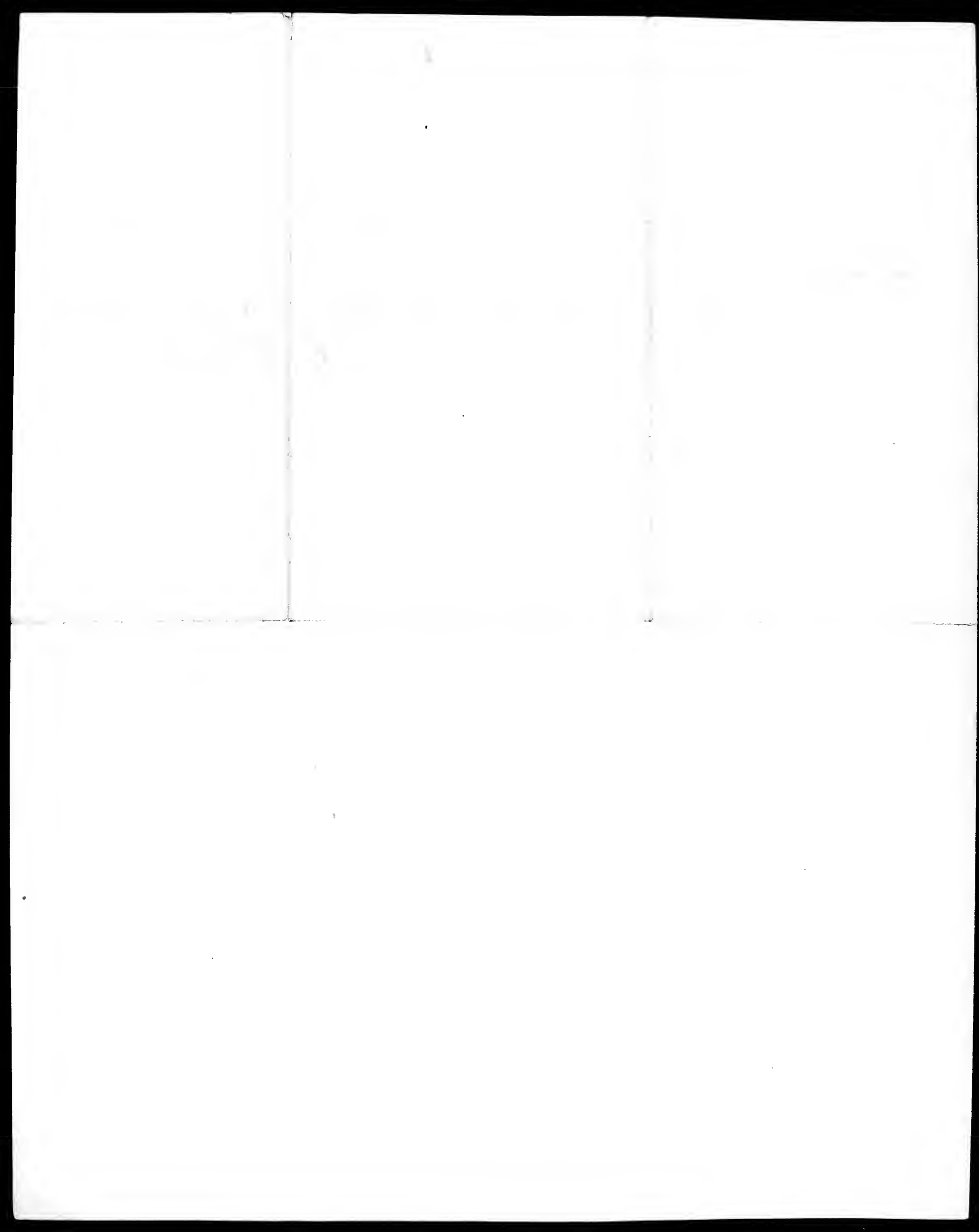
A short time since I petitioned Congress to pay the debts accruing from our operations in California and the Military Committee have been occupied in examining the subject. They have reported the bill, and the result of their examination to the Senate which has ordered 20,000 extra copies to be printed. I will send you one.

Mr. Benton & the family join in regards
to you.

With much regard I am yours very truly
J. C. Fremont.

Dr. John Torrey,
New York.







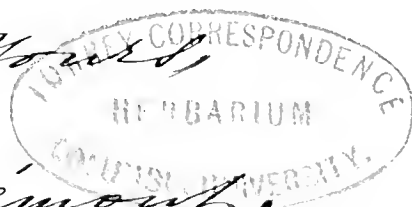
Washington City February 24th 1878.

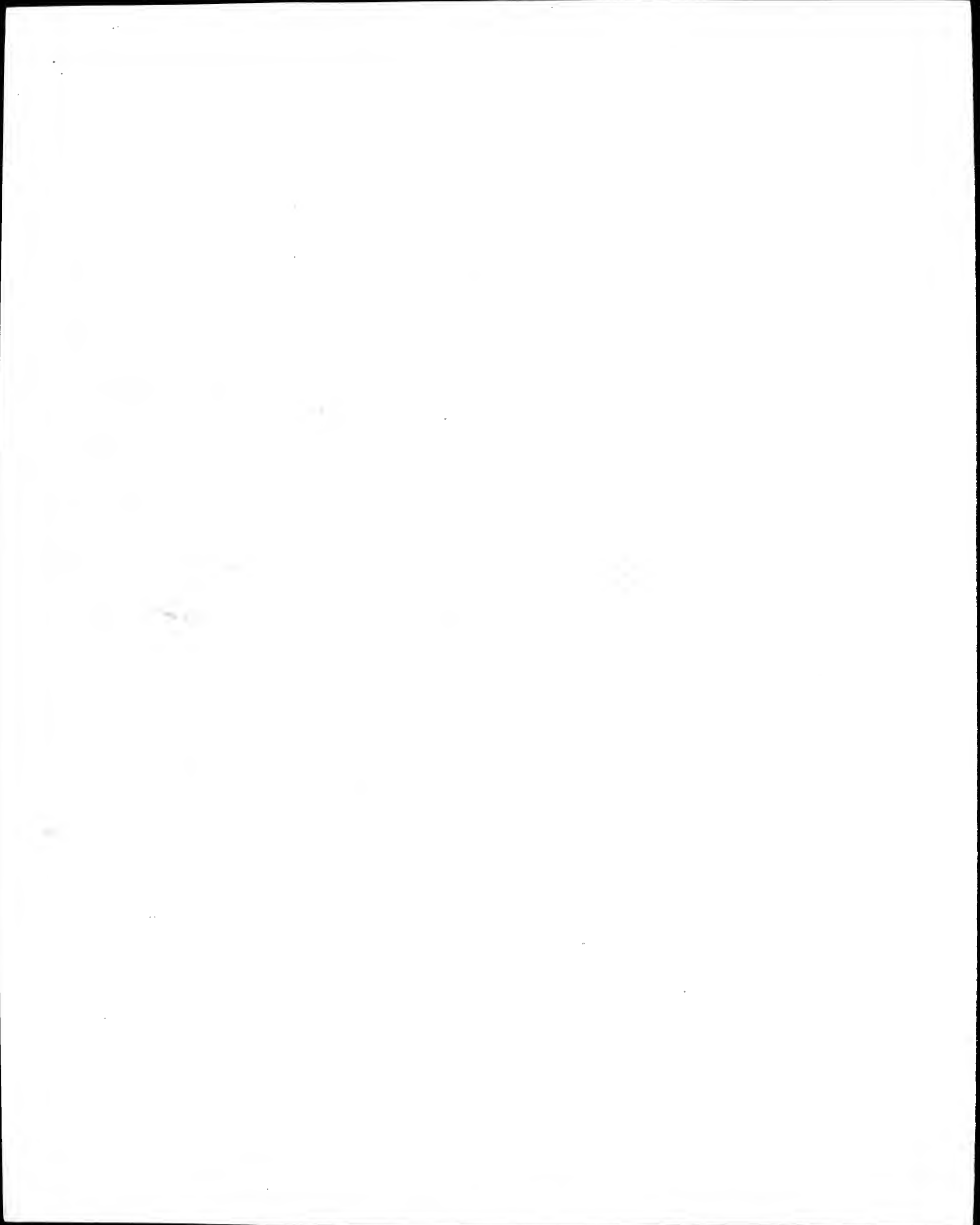
My Dear Sir,

I am about sending to California a number of seeds, and would like to have your opinion as to whether they should be simply in paper envelopes, or soldered up in tin boxes. I am also sending slips of vines & would like to know from you the best way of preserving them during the long sea voyage. May I ask for an early answer, as the vessel leaves shortly for California.

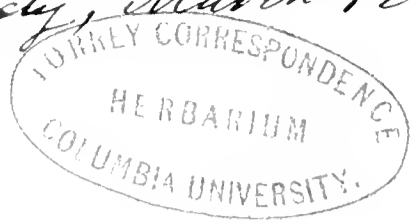
Very truly yours,

J. C. Hemmels.





Washington City, March 12. 1848.



My dear Sir,

I have received both your letters of the 8th. and 9th., and feel pleasure in making a satisfactory reply. I have good reasons for believing that I shall receive aid from the government in carrying on the work, and am now making my arrangements in that expectation. Perhaps you will be able to give me the approximate amount which we shall require for our botany, as I should like to include it in ~~the~~ general estimate. Although Douglas, Nuttall, & Gambel have done a great deal yet I am persuaded that much remains to be done, and that such an expedition as I now propose to make would collect rich material for the work.

Perhaps we could safely base our estimate on eighty quarto or a hundred and fifty octavo plates.

Mr. Kern, of Philadelphia, a brother of the artist who accompanied the last expedition, will go with me on this, and from what I have seen of his work you may anticipate beautiful drawings.

I should have been glad to have some little conversation with Mr. Nuttall before going out.

Is he likely to come this way? If you can do so conveniently please procure me a copy of his Gambel memoir when it comes out. Dr. Wriggenus' book is not yet published, but as soon as it is I will send the catalogues. I enclose you a draft for Mr. Endicott and a bill made out in proper form. The Departments here are fond of giving trouble and require every thing their own way. I think the charges are quite moderate and the work appears to me extremely good. I like very much your idea of importing an artist. I have always understood that while we fairly compete with Europeans in work on steel, they far excel us in lithography. It has been however suggested to me that this may be partly owing to the fact that we print on muslin paper, and they on linen; the latter being much the best. I think it would

be best to purchase the stones from Mr. Endicott.

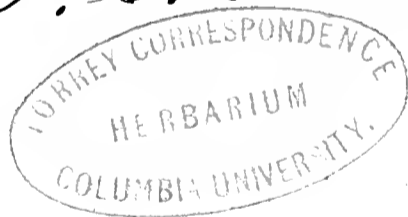
I regret to know that you will not be able to visit Washington again, and must try to get along in stead by frequent letters. It would be a very agreeable thing indeed to my wife if your daughter could carry out her inclination, and make a visit with her to California. Steam will soon make all this easy. But Mrs Fremont

will write for herself and continue as well as she
can on paper an acquaintance that she would
have had much pleasure in making personally.

I have to thank you for the pamphlet
sent me, and will be grateful for any aid of the
kind that may occur to you.

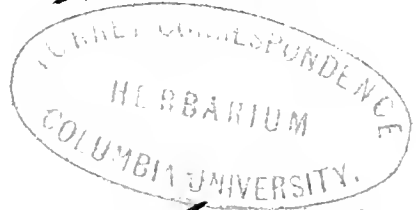
Mr. Endicott can sign the bill and
send it to me under cover to Mr. Benton.
Have you tried the effect of drawing the plants with
crayon? ~~instead of~~ I believe that greater depth of
shade and finer effect are so obtained, but I
suppose you think these less important than
the clearness of outline in Mr. Endicott's present
style.

very truly Yours,
J. C. Fremont.





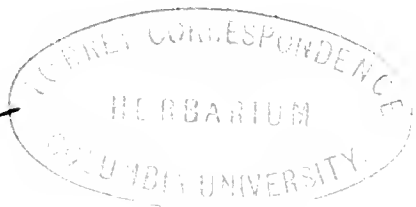
Washington City, March 22^d 1828.



My Dear Sir, After taking the trouble to gather plants I do not think we ought to lose them, even the scattered fragments which find here & there in my note books. I shall therefore send you such as find, and will beg you to return them to me, ^{with a} if ^{name} you have leisure. It may happen that I can make the knowledge useful.

Very truly yours

J. C. Fremont.





Washington City, May 3rd 1878.

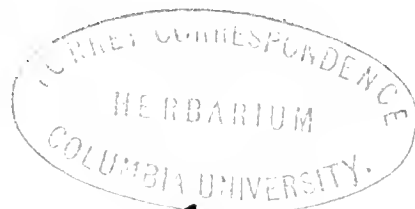
My dear Sir,

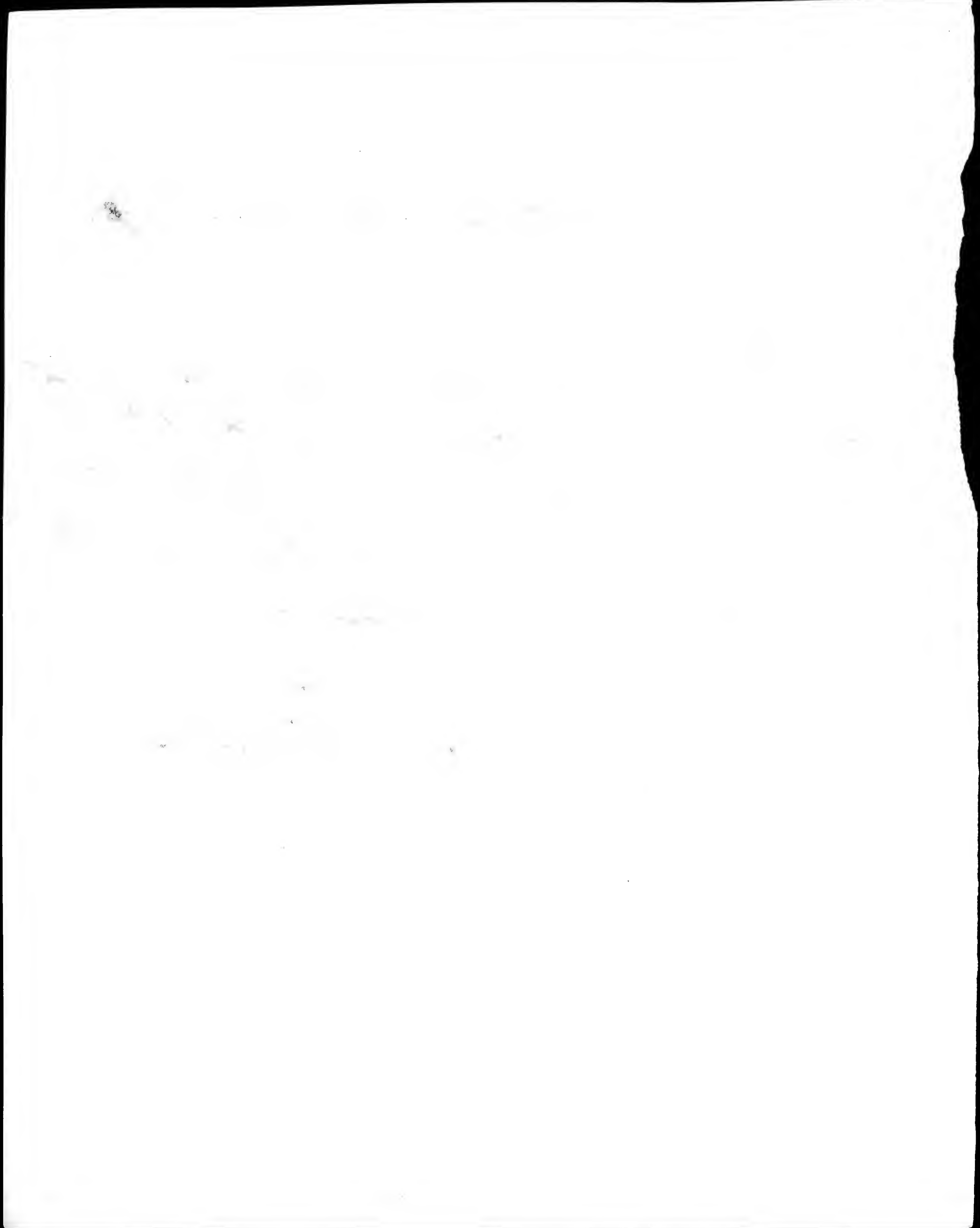
I have just received with much
pleasure your interesting note of the 1st to
which I will reply more at length. In
the mean time beg you to give me the
name of the flower enclosed.

Very truly Yours,

J. C. Freinow.

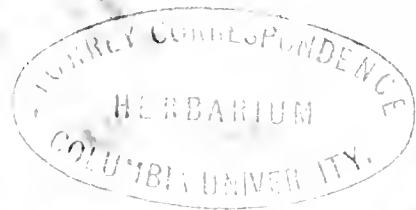
Dr. Torrey.





Washington May 5. 1848.

My dear Sir,




I mentioned to you that I am drawing up to be presented to Congress a brief memoir upon California.

It is intended to give some data for forming an estimate of the real value of the country, particularly required at this time, and will contain what facts I am able to give in (the absence of books journals and collections) climate general appearance, elevation and vegetation in different seasons. I therefore am obliged to make use of what little botanical knowledge is in my possession. If you have no objection I

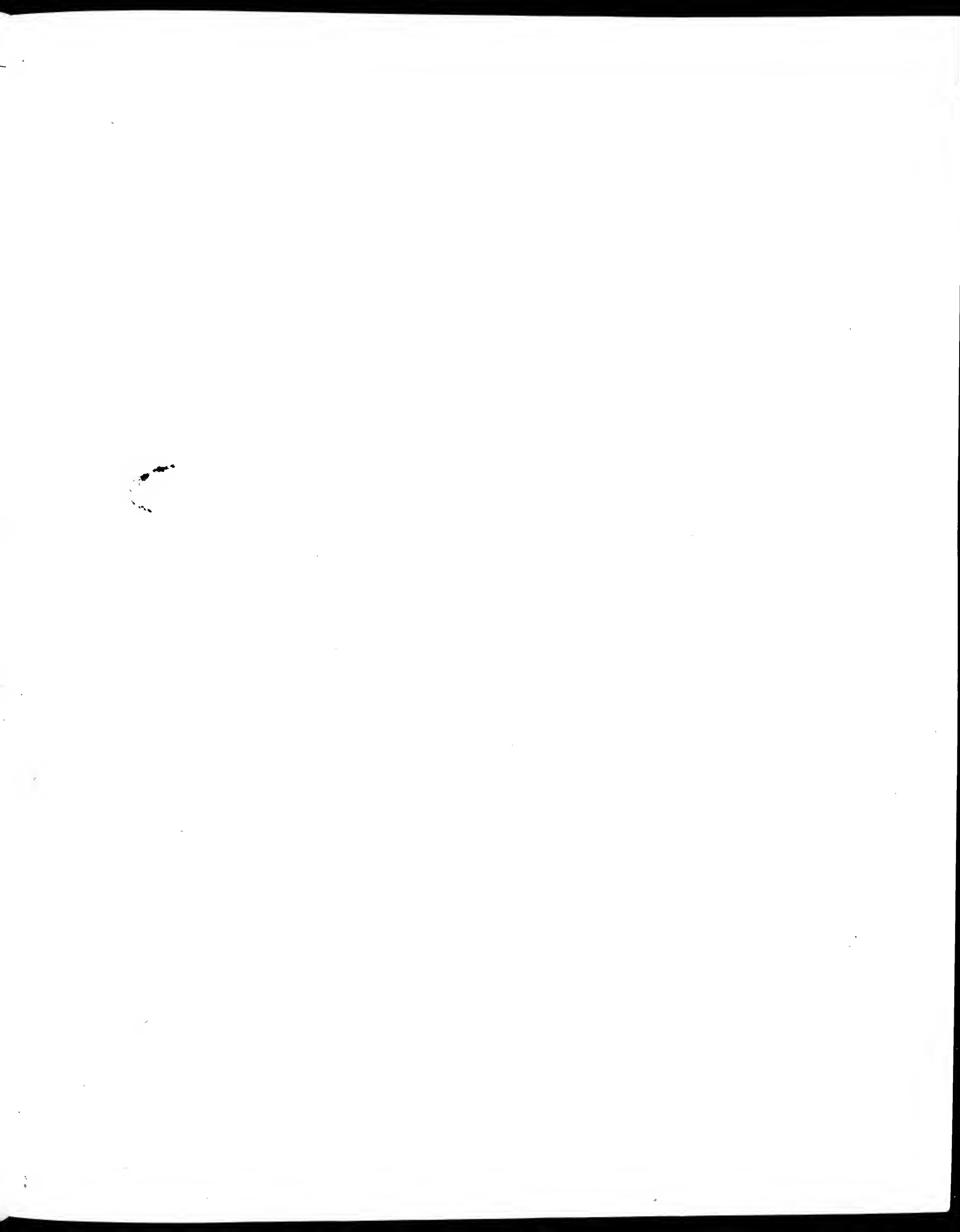
will mention the oak under the name Quercus longifolia.

The fruit in the drawing, sent is of the natural size, and the tree a very large one frequently 6 feet in diam.

In mentioning trees I am anxious to be as exact and definite as possible, and will thank you

of the Sierra Nevada, California,
for the name of the large cedar (*juniperus*) brought
home in our previous voyage, and also of a large
tree belonging to the Division of cypresses, ^{probably} brought in
at that time. It is called Palo Colorado by the
Californians, or Red wood. During our last journey I
measured some 15 & 17 feet diameter and 285 feet high.
Our present collection has many specimens in almost
every stage of growth. The fruit grows near on the
upper parts and is a ^{sort of} small ~~tree~~ cone .

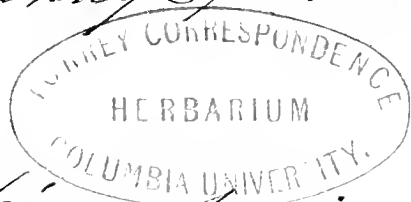
~~I have not~~ This memoir I expect to send in next
week, and would be glad to hear from you immedi-
ately. I have not yet received Mr. Brackenridge's
note. Probably the plant is already in our collection,
but as I shall not know any thing on this point
I will do what I can to find it. In looking over
the few notes I have seen I find that our collection
is very rich, containing in addition to the plants, many
seeds. Col. Benton will see that it reaches you safely.
It is on board a ship of war now on her way home,
and which is expected to reach Norfolk in ~~next~~
month. When the immediate press of business is over,
we will arrange our plans for the coming enterprise.
Dr. John Torrey.
very truly yours,
J. W. Fremont.





Washington City

May 27th 1848.



My Dear Sir,

Mr. Fremont is so pressed to finish his little memoir for the Senate, that he has asked me to send you the enclosed remnant of plants. They are the earliest flowering plants of the Loagnin valley (Cal.) and he would be much obliged if you could send him very soon, their names.

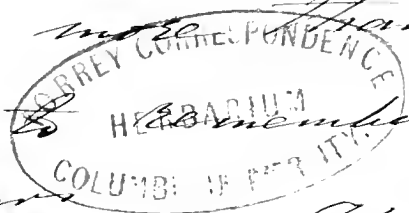
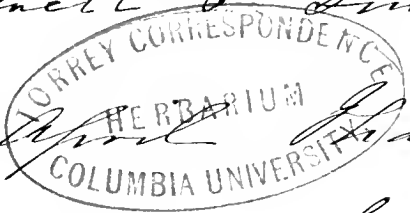
Mr. Friscula, the French botanist, made Mr. Fremont

a visit in which he
talked over his intended ex-
- plications, so he has seen him.

As he will have to go to
the North Mr. Fremont
hopes to see you before
leaving for California, which
he trusts will be in the
coming month.

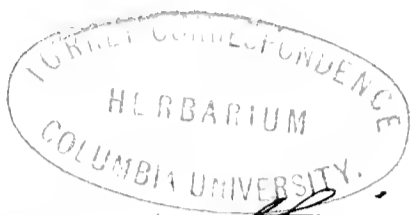
Your wishes for my
successful journey are a
little premature - I shall go
by the isthmus after the
steamers commence running,
a much less interesting, but
shorter & safer way for women.

& children. I should
have written to your daughter
some time since in answer
to her kind message but
for some months I have been
unwell & since the last
of April I have not left
my room, but have had a
battle with a violent
bilious fever, which like
Bryan's fight with Apollyon
was the dreadfulest fight
I ever had. Like him, howe-
-ver I have gained the
victory & I am more than
willing not even to remember
it. Yours, Truly yours,
Jesse Benton Freeman.



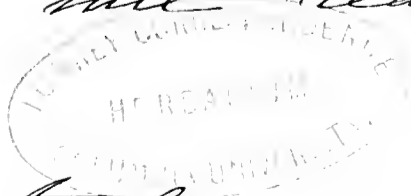
Washington City June 4th 1848.

My dear Sir,



Send you this sketch, from
memory of the tree about which I
~~wrote~~ you, & which you thought was
probably Abies Douglasii. It is called
the Redwood in California, and I have
measured them 275 feet high and 10 to 15
feet in diameter.

I shall be glad to send you the proof sheets
of the short memoir I am finishing, that
you may pass judgment on the few
botanical remarks which are introdu-
-ced. Suppose they will reach you
at Princeton?



Very truly yours
H. Fremont.



Washington City 22^d June 1848



My dear Sir,
I have referred in the pamphlet on California, now being printed to the Red wood tree as "a Cypress (Thuja)". I sent you the drawing in order that you might be satisfied that it was not an abies. The Cedar to which we have referred in the report, as being from 120 to 130 feet high belongs to a different tribe; it, must certainly be a juniperus —, its foliage is much the same as that of the redwood, but it bears berries like those of the common cedar.

You will see by the pamphlet that it is not owing to particularly favorable locality ^{mentioned} that the redwood, attained such great size.

I have frequently measured them nine ten and eleven feet diameter, and they are the tallest forest trees on the western coast. I have been looking over

Douglas' notes on California, and think
that he refers to the same tree, where
he speaks of a species of Taxodium.

I daily expect our plants. The vessel
which has them on board having put into
Rio Janeiro on her way home on the
28th of March.

Please let me
know if you think it safe to let the
words "a cypress (*Thuja*)" remain. I think
it is about the truth.

I shall soon obtain leave now
to arrange for the journey west and
will try to see you before going.

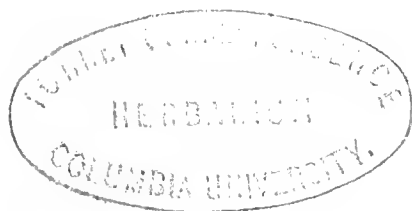
Yours truly
H. C. Fremon.

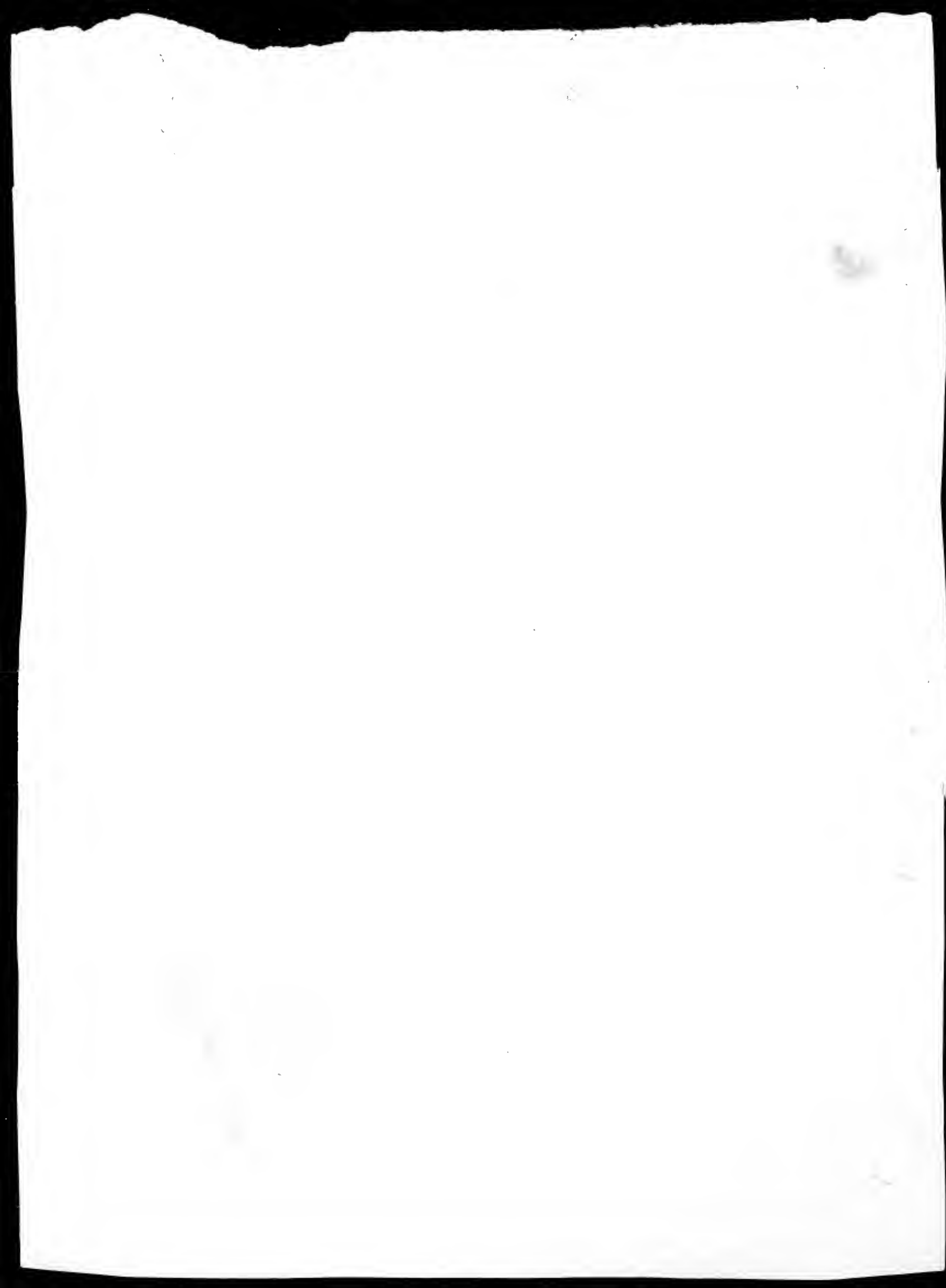
Dr. Torrey.



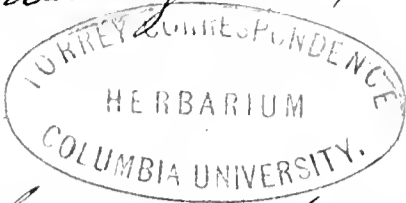
Rec'd in a letter
from Col. Freese
July 1878 -

Cypress ?





Washington, Sept. 3. 1848.



My dear Sir,

The settlement of my affairs in order to my long absence has so totally engrossed me that I have been forced to neglect my friends, and with them other more agreeable business. Nothing which had in it the name of California could pass the House this session, and with other things, our appropriation for the survey was lost there. I set out from this place on Wednesday or Thursday morning, remain one day in N.Y. and go on to Missouri from which I shall set out for California about the end of this month. Being in the winter our journey will be a severe one, but I hope to reach California early in December. I shall send you plants such as the season may afford by the first or second steamer (February or March) and you may ^{rely} on my exploring the country about Mt Shasta (Shastl) early the next spring. All our plans will be carried out. Col. Benton desires me to say to you that at the next session (this winter) he will procure the means ~~for~~ sufficient to cover all the expense attendant upon the examination of the plants, and upon the engraving and publishing our work in the style you suggest. He will want a letter from you upon the value of the plants and the value of the work, and will communicate with you for that purpose. So that you may be confident of our ultimate success, and in the meantime I will make a good harvest in California. Prof. Henry told me some weeks since that he would publish any thing you could furnish him with from the plants. In all this please act as you judge best. I would be glad to have

a line from you, and letters sent to Col Benton here
will be forwarded to me. Mrs Fremont will send you
(from my journal) the localities &c of the plants of
California. Some brief memoranda of plants gathered between
Bent's fort and the salt lake are sent by this mail. They
refer to such plants only as I had not had time to label
when they were gathered on the march or in my absence.
I will afterwards send you the list of the plants gathered
between the Missouri frontier and California.

I do not think that I have told you that I have
a son about five weeks old — Mrs Fremont is doing
well. I will write again and ~~am~~ my dear Sir

most truly yours,

J. E. Fremont.

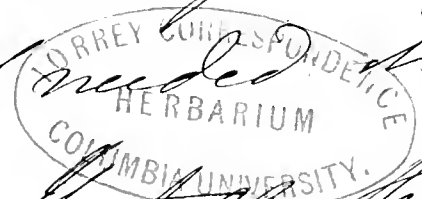


Prof. John Torrey,

Princeton.

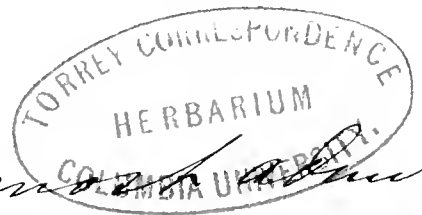
Those include all the material necessary
 I think my dear Sir. The selection I
 leave to your judgment. The letter
 from which I quote first, was
 prepared by Mr. Fremont for publication,
 but the reason for its not appearing
 although sufficient at the moment, was
 so only for the moment, and Mr. Fremont
 asked of me to watch for the right time
 and have it published, as all the reasons
 which induced him to publish it, only
 became the more forcible with time.

The name of the person to whom the
 letter was addressed, is not of pressing
 material at this time - if needed it can
 always be given.



It tells the
 whole reasons of his journey so clearly and
 at the same time with such characteristic
 modesty that I am glad it is to come out

I think everything contained in it Mr. Peimont had already told to you when we met you in New York this summer. You ~~should~~ have had this the day following my seeing you but I have been really ill & only this morning ^{able to be up again} if it is too late for Silliman's Journal will you please return it to me as in that case I will ^{try to} find some other paper equally creditable abroad, as one strong motive in publishing it is to give Baron Humboldt & others who take interest in such matters, a proper idea of what Mr. Peimont is doing.



Perhaps the best and most admirable part of his journey was the fortitude with which he returned to it after being worn down with incessant pain for weeks. In my position of wife I am denied the utterance of such sentiments, but when I saw him rise from his suffering and resolutely abandon the care and comfort so grateful to him, to follow out his work at every risk, I honoured him more than words